
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 822

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERVIEWS OF CHILDREN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

SUMMARY:

By law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner generally must obtain the consent of parents, guardians, or other individuals responsible for the care of children DCF wishes to interview when it is investigating child abuse or neglect allegations. Currently, DCF does not need the adult caretaker's consent when it has reason to believe that such adult or a member of the child's household is the perpetrator of the abuse or neglect. This bill instead allows DCF to conduct the interview without that consent if it has a "documented compelling reason" to believe that seeking consent would place the child at imminent risk of physical harm.

Under the bill, a "documented compelling reason" includes (1) criminal conviction information concerning the adult and (2) previous abuse or neglect allegations relating to (a) the child or other children in the household or (b) family violence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Children Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (02/28/2013)